



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re Application of:

Mukai et al.

Application No.: 09/910,583

Filed: July 20, 2001

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
CONTROLLING DOPANT
CONCENTRATION DURING BPSG
FILM DEPOSITION TO REDUCE
NITRIDE CONSUMPTION

Examiner: David P. Turocy

Art Unit: 1762

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Examiner:

This is in response to the Final Office Action mailed November 24, 2006 and the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 filed concurrently herewith. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter this Preliminary Amendment and consider the following remarks.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 on:

February 16, 2007

Date of Deposit

Gigi Hoover

Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

Gigi Hoover

Signature

February 16, 2007
Date